A/C Rail Fare from New Delhi to Chennai

1160. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rail fare for two-tier air-conditioned sleeper coaches from New Delhi to Chennai is higher than IA air fare on the same route; as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 6th July, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to bring down the rail fare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (b) As reported by Hindustan Times dated 6th July, 2002, Indian Airlines and Jet Airways have offered lower air fare of Rs. 3,292 from New Delhi to Chennai for the period from 1st August to 31st October, 2002 as against the normal air fare of Rs. 8,960, provided the booking is done 21 days in advance. The rail fare for this sector by AC 2-Tier in Rajdhani Express is Rs. 3,415 and in Tamilnadu Express and G.T. Express is Rs. 2,279.

(c) There is no proposal to reduce the rail fares.

ROB at Quilon

1161. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) at which stage the construction of Rail Over bridge at Quilon in Kerala stands at present;

(b) the amount earmarked by Government to undertake the work during this year;

(c) by when the construction is likely to be started; and

(d) the action taken on the part of State Government so far, to carry out the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The work was sanctioned on cost sharing basis during Works Programme of 2001-2002 but later on State Government

requested to replace Level Crossing (L.C.) No. 541 instead of 543 by ROB which has been agreed to by Railway.

(b) Rs. One lakh.

(c) The Railways will take up the bridge proper and the Government of Kerala will execute the approaches after the General Arrangement Drawing is finalised.

(d) No action has been taken by the State Government so far.

Reduction in Rail Fares

1162. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Ministry is considering proposal to reduce fares in upper classes in respect of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the proposed reduction in fare is likely to be extended to other trains and other classes of travels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

CAG Report on Railway Zones

1163. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has reportedly stated that his decision on zonal reorganisation did not cover Eastern Railway alone, but almost all the existing nine Zones, except the Northeast Frontier Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that his above unilateral decision has neither the support of CAG report nor Rakesh Mohan Committee's recommendation on creation of new Zones;